Passage 6:

Surah AL-FATEHA (1: 1-7)

1. In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful. 2. Praise be to Allah, the cherisher and sustainer of the worlds; 3. Most gracious, most merciful; 4. Master of the Day of Judgment. 5. You we worship, and your aid we seek. 6. Show us the straightway, 7. The way of those to whom You have given your grace, not those who earn your anger, nor those who go astray.

Main Theme

- Main theme of Surah Al-Fatiha is Allah's relationship with the created world.
- Only Allah is deserving of admiration as He is the Cherisher, the Sustainer and the Provider of all the worlds he has created.
- It affirms Allah's special relation with all his creations specially mankind as the Human beings are weak and dependant on Allah for their existence and survival.
- As the Cherisher and the Provider, Allah fulfils all their needs and make sure that all their needs including food, water, oxygen, sustainable environment, protection and all other things needed by Man for their existence and survival on Earth must reach them.
- It reveals Allah's love, care, mercy and forgiveness for Humans who are weak and erring creation. Allah says in the Quran:

"Tell my servants that I am indeed the Oft forgiving the Most Merciful. [15: 49-50]

- Humans are given free will by Allah so they are accountable in front of Allah for their deeds and Allah will judge them according to their actions on Earth. Allah will reward and punish them as is promised in the Quran:

"and only on the Day of Judgment shall you be paid your full recompense"

[3,185, al-Imran]

- Allah is the Guide of mankind and he guides those who ask for the straight path. Allah assist Humans if they ask for help.
- Allah's judgment, accountability, guidance, help and assistance shows His special relation with Human beings. It is man's duty to beg before Allah for guidance:

"and your Lord says: call on Me, I shall answer your supplication" (40:60).

- Allah also tells man the consequences of following this code of conduct or going astray. Therefore, man needs to praise and worship him and resort to him alone.

Importance of Main themes

- Understanding of the main theme of this passage is too much important for Human beings as it enables them realise Allah's special love, care and mercy for them enables them to develop a strong relation with God by knowing His attributes and following His commands and adoring Him alone.
- This passage is recited in every prayer. 'No prayer is accepted without Fatiha'.
- It is a conversation with God and He is the Creator, and God is replying to each verse. Through it, humans communicate with God.
- Muslims use this Surah to ask for guidance, for mercy and help, in every prayer and even outside the prayer.
- This passage urges a believer to admit his mistakes and sins and seek Allah's mercy and forgiveness.
- Submitting to God brings humbleness into lives, and because Muslims are accountable to God they pray to be guided on the straight path and they try their best to avoid wrong deeds and Allah's displeasure.
- It creates sense of self accountability in a believer. He understands the temporary nature of this world and prepares for the Eternal life of hereafter.
- It tells a believer to seek Allah's mercy, help, guidance and protection at every step of life.
- This passage made a Muslim realise that he must have firm faith in Allah's Divine Decree and Absolute Justice in this world and ultimately in the Hereafter.

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